

Mitch Eddy honored for distinguished service at SSR annual meeting

By Eddy Ball

NIEHS lead researcher [Edward Mitchell \(Mitch\) Eddy, Ph.D.](#), received the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) Distinguished Service Award July 23 at the group's annual [meeting](#) (<http://www.ssr.org/Meetings.shtml>) in Montreal. "His steady contributions of leadership, mentorship, and scientific expertise have helped mold and solidify the society as we know it today," [SSR](#) (<http://www.ssr.org/AboutSSR.shtml>) said in its announcement of the award.

SSR cited Eddy's contributions over more than a decade as director, president, program chair, publications chair, and associate editor of the SSR journal [Biology of Reproduction \(BOR\)](#). (<http://www.biolreprod.org/>)

"I am delighted to learn of Mitch's richly deserved Distinguished Service Award," said NIEHS and NTP Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D. "Here at the Institute, as well as in the larger scientific community, Mitch makes important contributions to science and the next generation of biomedical researchers, by working quietly behind the scenes. He's a modest man, so it takes awards, such as this one, for the rest of us to fully realize just how much Mitch is giving of himself."

Moving the society and its journal into the new millennium

Since 2001, Eddy's many contributions have been instrumental in the evolution of SSR and BOR to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing scientific and publishing environment. They range from helping create the SSR strategic plan and re-vision the Publications Committee Research Ethics and Animal Ethics subcommittees, to building the foundation for the transition of BOR from print to an exclusively electronic publication.

From the beginning, Eddy played an important part in planning the scientific programs for SSR annual meetings, and his leadership quickly extended to most aspects of the society's affairs. In his most recent role as publications chair, Eddy was instrumental in initiating BOR's optimization for mobile devices, creating a BOR and SSR marketing campaign, developing the SSR website redesign project, adopting continuous publication of BOR, and revising and reorganizing the journal's instructions for authors on the Web.

The most recent milestone in a stellar career

After completion of his Ph.D. in anatomy from the University of Texas Medical Branch in 1967, Eddy went on to become an NIH postdoctoral fellow and an instructor at Harvard Medical School. He later became a member of the faculty of University of Washington School of Medicine, advancing to professor in 1982, before joining NIEHS in 1983 to lead the Gamete Biology Group in the Laboratory of Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology (LRDT).

In addition to his SSR Distinguished Service Award, Eddy has received several honors, including the Distinguished Andrologist Award from the American Society of Andrology. Characteristically, one of the awards he found the most gratifying was his selection by the NIEHS Trainee's Assembly (NTA) as 2012 NIEHS Mentor of the Year.



Eddy, left, received his 2012 Mentor of the Year award from Tracy Clement, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in his group and LRDT representative on the NTA steering committee. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



Among Eddy's contributions to the SSR journal was development of an easily navigable, reader-friendly [information for authors and reviewers](#) (<http://www.biolreprod.org/site/misc/ifora.xhtml>) page. (Photo courtesy of SSR)

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